

Elliott County FFA Thanks Conservation District for Support Of Their Chapter

Submitted by Pam Williams

Twenty-one students from Elliott County FFA Chapter along with high school principal, Zachery Mayse, attended the Elliott County Conservation District meeting in February to thank them in person for their support of their chapter and for the contribution on the purchase of FFA jackets. Chairman Kenny Skaggs addressed the students, saying "It is very important that you take advantage of all the opportunities offered through FFA. We encourage each one of you to work hard and commit to furthering your studies in agriculture, and when given the opportunity, participate in the officer seats of your chapter and if possible officer seats on the state level FFA chapter. We want you to know we are very proud of your decisions today, and a lot of people are here to support you and see each of you succeed." The students also expressed their gratitude toward the board for their support and efforts that ensured FFA curriculum remained an option at Elliott County high school.

The Elliott County Conservation District board is dedicated to promoting conservation, agriculture and environmental education in their county. Over the years there has been a decline in agriculture in the county, as well as across the state. The fallout from the decline of agriculture and a tough economy resulted in the Elliott County Board of Education making some tough and very unpopular decisions; one in particular was set to eliminate the FFA class. When the conservation district board heard that proposal, they dedicated themselves to doing whatever they could to keep the FFA from being discontinued. They talked and met with the superintendent, school board members, legislators and members of the public. The board of education reversed their decision and allowed the Elliott County chapter of FFA to remain in the high school curriculum.

The board has made significant commitments to work with the local ag teacher and FFA students with help in sponsoring and supporting some partner projects that may increase student participation, hands on opportunities and provide agriculture educational opportunities. They plan to build greenhouses and garden plots on the conservation district grounds for student use in studying cropping, soils, water quality, and nutrient management. Once the plants are established this will possibly generate some revenue for the class which would be useful toward the students travel expenses to state and national competitions and meetings.

The district has also started for the 2016-2017 school year a college scholarship available to students in Elliott County who plan to further their education in agriculture or natural resources field. They plan to initiate a junior conservation district board with representation from the Elliott County FFA Chapter to further their knowledge in parliamentary procedures, conservation and community involvement projects. The conservation district board in Elliott County is leading the efforts and creating a path for FFA students to succeed in their education endeavors for the future of agriculture, environment and leadership in Elliott County.



Chairman, Kenny Skaggs Addresses Elliott County FFA Chapter
With Board Member Joe Holbrook



Elliott County FFA Chapter with Board of Supervisors
Front Row (L-R) Dan Ison, Vice Chairman, Kenny Skaggs, Chairman
Joe Holbrook, Roger Mayse, Johnny Ison, Treasurer